

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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R 121139Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4021

INFO URMISSION USUN NEW YORK 493

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALIA'S NON-ALIGNED STATUS QUESTIONED

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE FORMATION OF ITS NEW PARTY, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOMALIA MAY HAVE ABANDONED ITS LIP-SERVICE TO A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 8 CALLED BY THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE PARTY AND TO PRESENT ITS GOALS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE PHRASE "NON-ALIGNMENT" WAS NOWHERE MENTIONED IN THE MINISTER'S 20 MINUTE LONG STATEMENT OF SOMALI'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES AND GOALS. THE YUGOSLAV THEN ASKED IF THE OMISSION MEANT THAT SOMALIA WAS GIVING UP ITS PREVIOUSLY DECLARED POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. AFTER A LENGTHY PAUSE, THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT SOMALIA WANTED TO HAVE RELATIONR WITH ALL STATES AND THAT HIS STATEMENT IN FACT SAID THAT SOMALIA WOULD FOLLOW A POLICY OF "CO-EXISTENCUA." (QUOTES BELONG TO THE MINISTER). HOWEVER, THE MINISTER DID NOT IN HIS ANSWER USE THE PHRASE NON-ALIGNMENT NOR DID HE AFFIRM THAT THIS WAS STILL SOMALIS'S POLICY.

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3. ALTHOUGH OBSERVANCE BY THE GSDR OF A POLICY OF TRUE NON-

ALIGNMENT HAS BEEN, TO SAY THE LEAST, HIGHLY SUSPECT, GOVT SPOKESMEN HAVE ON OCCASION MADE THE REQUIRED MINIMUM RHETORICAL DEFERENCE TO THE PHRASEOLOGY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

4. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE POST FINDS IT RELEVANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO A STATEMENT ON THE NATURE OF SOMALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION MADE BY A SDR SPOKESMAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF A TREATY OF CO-OPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SDR AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND PUBLISHED BY THE GOVT NEWS AGENCY SONNA ON JULY 11.

5. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SONNA QUOTED THE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING: "THE EVER STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SDR AND THE SOVIET UNION..., WOULD RENDER INEFFECTIVE THE CONSPIRACIES DIRECTED AGAINST SOMALIA BY INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISTS. THIS AGREEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF LONG STANDING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND DEFINED DIRECTIONS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN BUILDING THEIR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES ALONG THE PATH OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM.

6. "THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IDENTICAL VIEWS ON WORLD AFFAIRS RELATED TO EFFORTS FOR INTERNAL, LASTING PEACE, SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM MOVEMENTS, MOVEMENTS AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, AND NEO-COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACISM, AND OPPOSITION TO REACTIONARIES...."

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY TRYING FIND OUT NAMES OF GSDR DELEGATION TO COLOMBO NAM MEETINGS. MEANWHILE MOST OBSERVERS HERE AGREE THAT GSDR'S NON-ALIGNED STATUS INCREASINGLY SUSPECT. LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOGADI01089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-1042
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760768/aaaachyb.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALIA'S NON-ALIGNED STATUS QUESTIONED
TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006